



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) – San Diego makes major progress** – As part of its Sewer Spill Reduction Program, San Diego has made substantial progress in improving the performance of its sewer lines. The 365 sewer spills in 2000 were reduced to 127 in 2004. Within the San Diego Regional Board area, spills have declined from 445 in FY2001-02, to 266 in FY2004-05. Last January, *NewsFlash* 05-04 discussed wet weather and other overflows from sanitary sewers. Sometimes these overflows enter storm drains and result in elevated bacteria concentrations in receiving waters. The problem was particularly acute in San Diego and the city was sued by environmental groups in 2001 after a 34 million gallon sewage spill. The State Water Resources Control Board is implementing a consistent statewide approach for reducing SSOs. Regional Board Executive Officers' Report (see pgs. 4, 23):

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/eo\\_report/reports/eoreport%2012-14-05.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/eo_report/reports/eoreport%2012-14-05.pdf) Article:

[http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20060104/news\\_7m4spills.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20060104/news_7m4spills.html) SD press release:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/mwwd/news/press/pdf/050128.pdf>

Overflows are typically caused by blockages (grease, rags, roots, etc.) and pipe or pump failure, as well as excessive storm water entering the systems. The recent storms have contributed to sewer system overflows around the state. For example, recent overflows led to the closure of Pismo and Avila beaches: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/news/local/13544756.htm>

**303(d) List – Comment deadline extended again** – The State Water Resources Control Board's 303(d) list identifies impaired waterways for which total maximum daily loads (TMDL) must be prepared (see *NewsFlash* 05-41 for more discussion). The deadline for comments on the draft 2006 list has been extended until January 31, 2006. The draft list adds 464 water body-pollutant combinations to the 1883 on the current list and recommends delisting 177. List and background: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d\\_update.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_update.html)

## Upcoming

- *Annual e-Report Workshops* – various locations through **January**; the State Board is developing an electronic Storm Water Annual Report submittal form to be used via the Internet: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/swarm\\_workshop.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/swarm_workshop.pdf)
- *Workshop - Ocean Monitoring* – Oakland, **February 7**; goal: stakeholder group attempting to develop consistent monitoring elements for ocean discharge monitoring programs; model monitoring products may be used to amend the California Ocean Plan; agenda to be posted by 1/20/06 at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/index.html> (site currently includes presentations from the 5/5/05 workshop).
- *Joint Workshop – Atmospheric Deposition and Water Quality* – Sacramento, Cal/EPA Headquarters Building, **February 9**; sponsored by SWRCB and California Air Resources Board; goal: receive information on the relationship between atmospheric deposition and water quality; comments due Feb. 7; notice and agenda: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/workshops/2006/atmospheric.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>